

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Periodically via status query 10, status requester 13, sends a status request to another host computer on wide area network 275, such as a common carrier shipping service like UPS or FedEx. Status information 11 is returned and received by status receiver 14 which places the new status information in status database 16. When status receiver 14 updates the status in status database 16, it sets a flag on the particular database record indicating a change in status.

B1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

B2
B3
C1

15. (Twice Amended) An update processing and transmission system, comprising:
storage means for storing status information relating to a commerce-related event;
status information retrieval means for retrieving said status information;
message generation means for automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and
message forwarding means for automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.